

Appl. No. 10/624,907
Reply to Office Action dated Oct 6, 2004
Response dated November 16, 2004

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004. A response is due on or before January 6, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-12, 14-23 and 25 are allowed.

The Examiner indicates that claims 13 and 24 are rejected. The Examiner objects to claims 1, 12, 13 and 14 because of various formalities that are contained in paragraph 2, page 2 of the Office Action. Those claims have been amended to incorporate the Examiner's suggestions in paragraph 2 at page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error in element "e" and to place a comma after barge in step "d". None of the amendments to claim 14 are amendments that relate to patentability.

At paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejects claim 13 as unpatentable over Swink in view of Masters. In that rejection, the Examiner comments that Swink discloses the claimed invention except for the method of installing via a barge. The Examiner comments that Masters teaches that it is known to install a vortex induced suppression device using a barge having a ramp/stinger as set forth at column 2, lines 35-57. The Examiner reasons that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a barge having a stinger as taught by Masters in order to facilitate laying of a pipeline.

Following the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 24 as unpatentable over Swink in view of Masters as applied to claim 13 and further in view of McMillan. In that rejection, the Examiner comments that Swink in view of Masters discloses the claimed invention except for the copper. The Examiner states that McMillan teaches that it is known to use copper to reduce the growth of aquatic organisms. Therefore, the Examiner reasons that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide copper to reduce the growth of aquatic organisms.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 was rejected under section 103. Claim 13 has been amended to point out that in step "a" one or more polymeric vortex induced vibration suppression devices are mounted on the pipeline, each device including a generally cylindrically shaped wall with helical vanes thereon

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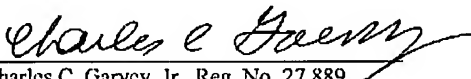
surrounding a continuous open ended bore and a wall slot enabling the wall to be opened to afford access to the bore so that the device can be mounted on the pipeline via the slot. In Swink, vanes are directly mounted on the outside of the pipeline. Such an arrangement suffers because as the pipe passes over the stinger, these individual vanes can be easily shifted from the helical position compromising their effectiveness as a vortex induced vibration suppression device. Conversely, the present invention provides a generally cylindrically shaped wall with helical vanes mounted thereon surrounding a continuous open ended bore. Further, the present invention provides a wall slot enabling the wall to be opened to afford access to the bore so that the device can be mounted on the pipeline via the slot. Because of the new restrictions added to claim 13, it is believed allowable. For the same reason, claim 24 is believed allowable because it depends from 13 as amended.

In view of the above comments, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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